

Hand Made Camera Exhibition

If your taking a vacation this summer to Japan or happen to be in the area then you are invited to a special exhibition at the Japan Camera Museum in Tokyo which is running until August 31st. In collaboration with the Japan Hand Made Camera Club and the Japan Camera Industry Institute, some 100 hand-built cameras and accessory items are on view along with sample photographs taken by the craftsmen who built them. These are specialized cameras: panorama, pinhole, stereo, Fish-eye, disguised Digital as well as imitations of standard cameras.

The exhibition is held in conjunction with the 25th Anniversary of the Camera Grand prix which brings together Japanese historical cameras. On view is the first camera manufactured in Japan, a red lacquer decorated box camera of 1854 after the style of the American Daguerreotype camera of 1848. So it is well worth a visit.

Sam Mabuchi, who has authored article for our PHSC Photographic Canadiana, indicates he would be pleased to assist English speaking tourists when visiting the exhibition. He needs to know the date and time which we will be happy to pass onto him through our web connection.

Mr. Mabuchi was instrumental in publishing a 45 page catalogue for the exhibition which is illustrated with the cameras mounted for the show. In Japanese we at least understand the wonderful title for the exhibition: "If None Available, Create Your Own World's Only Camera! Hand Made Camera Exhibition".

Japan Camera Inspection Institute

Originally formed to inspect all cameras and lenses being exported from Japan, the Japan Camera Inspection Institute founded in 1954 has changed its mandate to maintain a camera museum to preserve examples and the history of the Japanese camera industry. Several thousand cameras are housed at the museum. JCII (now named Japan Camera Industry Institute) has also preserved important information pertaining to the cameras and aims in the future to preserve photography and film culture.

If you can't get there yourself you might check their web site at www.jcii-cameramuseum.jp

Bob Lansdale

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